

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following new claims.

30. (New) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

- a. contacting said fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor;
- b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and,
- c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

31. (New) A method of determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

- a. contacting said fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand receptor conjugate, said ligand receptor conjugate comprising at least one ligand receptor coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand receptor conjugate specifically binds to said target ligand;
- b. generating a detectable signal from said ligand receptor conjugate that is not bound to said target ligand in said reaction mixture; and,
- c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said ligand receptor conjugate bound to said target ligand is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

34. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said ligand receptor conjugate that is not bound to said target ligand is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

Please enter the following amendments to the pending claims by inserting that which is underlined and deleting the bracketed material.

28. (Amended) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand [capable of competing with a ligand analogue conjugate for binding sites available on a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element, said signal development element comprising a water soluble phthalocyanine derivative,] in a fluid sample [suspected of containing said target ligand], the method comprising [the steps of]:

- a. contacting [said] a fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with [said] a ligand analogue conjugate and [said] a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor;
- b. [detecting bound or unbound] generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate[s] bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture [using said water soluble phthalocyanine derivative]; and,
- c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

29. (Amended) A method of determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample [suspected of containing said target ligand], the method comprising [the steps of]: